

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

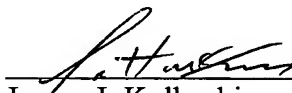
The present application is a division of application Serial No. 10/076,484, filed on February 19, 2002, which is a Division of Application Serial No. 09/632,937 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,360,057), filed on August 4, 2000, which is a Division of Application Serial No. 09/564,538 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,480,669), filed on May 4, 2000, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

New Claims 32-35 are currently pending. Claims 1-31 are canceled and new Claims 32-35 are added by the present amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that support for new Claims 32-35 is self-evident from the disclosure as originally filed, including drawings and claims. No new subject matter is introduced by the foregoing amendment.

Accordingly, Examination of the present application on the merits is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866

JKK/SAM/CHY:pch

I:\ATTY\CHY\249631\US\249631_PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.DOC